

some other works on insanity it is at the same time less complicated and more comprehensible. It was not written for alienists who may regard it purely from the standpoint of the alienist, but by other medical readers it will be highly appreciated and often consulted where an ultra-scientific treatise would be rejected.

The glossary at the end of the volume will materially assist those who are not conversant with neurological terms to a thorough comprehension of the text.

The index is not by any means complete. It is an important feature in a work of this kind and greatly enhances its usefulness. Many references are entirely omitted.

Dr. Gray is to be congratulated on his choice of a publisher. The book is well printed on excellent paper, and the illustrations, taking them all together, are far superior to those contained in other works upon the same subject.

G. M. H.

INTERNATIONAL CLINICS. A quarterly of Clinical Lectures on Medicine, Surgery, Gynæcology, Pediatrics, Neurology, Dermatology, Laryngology, Ophthalmology and Otology, by professors and lecturers in the leading medical colleges of the United States, Great Britain and Canada. Edited by John M. Keating, M.D.; J. P. Crozu Griffith, M.D.; J. Mitchel Bruce, M.D., F.R.C.P.; David W. Finlay, M.D., F.R.C.P., April, 1891. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, publishers.

This first volume of these quarterlies is undoubtedly of value to all who desire to inform themselves through modern thought on the topics of which it treats. It is evidently the desire of the publishers to give the general practitioner a sort of post-graduate instruction at home. The effort, as far as one can judge from this first volume, is all that its publishers could do in this direction, and they evidently have not spared money or zeal in the task. The work is well put together—paper, typography, and illustrations—all of the best.

The following are some of the subjects treated of in the field of neurology and medicine :

Acromegaly, by James Ross. Different Types of Paralysis in Young Children, by Landon Carter Gray. Chorea, by Sir Dyce Duckworth. The Remote Effects of Traumatism as Seen by the Neurologist, by H. C. Wood. Functional Nervous Troubles, Neurasthenia, Its Occurrence in Young and Old; Symptomatology and Treatment, by B. Sachs. Myotonia and Athetoid Spasm, by Chas. K. Mills. Alcoholic Paralysis, by David Ferrier. Treatment of Obstinate Sciatic Pain by Splint Rest and Cold, by S. Weir Mitchell. Etc., etc. In all thirty-seven subjects are treated of in the various departments of the medical art.

The utility of the plan laid out can only be judged by time. If the succeeding books are in keeping with the standard of the first volume it will prove of great use to the desiring, self-informing worker in his endeavor to keep abreast with the advances of theory and practice. The topics in the field of neurology are all carefully finished lectures and by representative men in their specialty. Space does not permit us to discuss them in detail.

THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD. Victor Horsley, London. Charles Griffen & Co., 1892; pp. 223.

The book is a series of nine lectures given as the Fullerian lectures at the Royal Institution in 1891. Another series was given in 1892, and will, presumably, be published soon, while still a third is in prospect. This last series will deal with some results of research in physiological psychology. The second dealt with the more complicated portions of the central nervous system, as shown in the encephalon, while the lectures before us have to do with the spinal cord and ganglia alone. The initial lecture is historical and gives interesting extracts from Willis and some of his contemporaries, as well as a sketch of neurology from the earliest times. With the second chapter our author opens the discussion of the comparative anatomy and physiology of nervous structures by describing the reactions of protoplasm, the unicellular animals, coelenterata, echinodermata, crustacea, amphibia, etc.

We start with susceptibility to stimuli and more or less definite reactions. As we ascend the series the nervous system becomes more differentiated. Through the special sense organs the organism becomes more susceptible, through segregation of the tissues there comes subdivision in the reactions, or a form of localization. Through union of the central masses arises the possibility of that coördination of movements on which all refinement and effectiveness of motion depends. The reactions take the form of simple reflex, rhythmical and automatic responses. As low in the series as the medusa we are able to discover all the elements of the reflex, as found in the higher forms. Each of these elements has then to be studied in detail, for they are capable, even in this simple condition, of suggesting all the fundamental problems involved. In describing the nerve fibres in chapter four, Gaskell's conclusions concerning the non-medullated fibres are introduced, and the results of his work are here and elsewhere brought out. Here, too, the bilateral representation of function is touched upon. The nerve cells of the spinal and sympathetic ganglia are next described, and the value of the nerve impulse as a reaction by which to investigate the more complicated structures is indicated. The next chapter deals with the physiology of the nerve fibre, including some statement of the experiments made to determine the changes in the nerve elements as